

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Applicant: George H. HOFFMAN et al.  
Title: SYSTEM, METHOD AND COMPUTER  
PROGRAM PRODUCT FOR A  
COMMUNICATION FRAMEWORK IN A  
SUPPLY CHAIN MANAGEMENT  
ARCHITECTURE  
Appl. No.: 09/816,160  
Filing Date: 03/23/2001  
Examiner: Elaine L. Gort  
Art Unit: 3627

**RECEIVED**

OCT 5 2004

**GROUP 3600**

**RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION/ELECTION REQUIREMENT**

Mail Stop NON-FEE AMENDMENT  
Commissioner for Patents  
PO Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Office Action dated September 20, 2004, Applicants hereby elects Group II (Claims 6-15), drawn to a method for providing network based supply chain communication between stores, distributors, suppliers, a supply chain manager, and an office of the supply chain manager for prosecution in the subject application in order to advance the prosecution of this application.

Applicants, of course, reserves the right to file a divisional application covering the subject matter of the non-elected claims.

Receipt of the initial Office Action on the merits is awaited.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: October 1, 2004

By 

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